

# ICCTA ACTION ALERT

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Summer 2006

## SPRING 2006 LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP

The Illinois General Assembly concluded its business in Springfield and adjourned the spring 2006 legislative session on May 4. Both houses of the General Assembly will return to Springfield on November 14 to begin the fall 2006 veto session.

This year's spring session was relatively low key at first when legislative leaders set April 7 as their final adjournment date - about seven weeks earlier than the typical end-of-May adjournment time. Most of the rationale for an early adjournment centered around 2006 as a statewide election year and a subsequent desire to address the FY 2007 state budget and not many other issues. Contributing to the proposed schedule were plans to begin a Capitol Building heating and air conditioning systems overhaul that requires gutting the House and Senate chambers. After several budget issues were resolved, the session adjourned about one month after the scheduled adjournment and about three weeks before the end of May constitutional requirements.

### BUDGET

The last order of business for the General Assembly was to adopt a Fiscal Year 2007 operating budget for all agencies of state government. The \$56 billion budget was adopted by both houses voting along partisan lines (Democrats voted for the budget and Republicans voted against it). In its final form, the approved FY 2007 budget is similar to the one proposed by Gov. Blagojevich during his February budget address, with some modifications. There was no funding approved for capital projects. **The Governor has approved the budget package sent by the General Assembly.**

Much of this year's revenue for the budget was determined last year, when a two-year partial "pension holiday" of public employee pension contributions was approved. Approximately \$1.2 billion in state funds that would have been directed to the state's payment into the public pension funds (including the State Universities Retirement System) was instead diverted for the state's budget for ordinary and contingent expenses this year (FY06) and approximately \$1.1 billion will be diverted in FY 07. State funding for community college grants increased by 1.7% over FY 06 but is still approximately 13% below state support for community colleges in FY 01.

### BILLS OF INTEREST TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES PASSED AND SENT TO THE GOVERNOR

All legislation that is listed in this report was passed by both houses of the General Assembly and sent to the Governor for his action. Some bills of interest to community colleges did not pass both houses of the General Assembly and are not listed in this report. The Governor may sign the bill, veto it or amendatorily veto it.

**HB4406 Higher Education Grant for Child Raised by a Grandparent (Jones)**

**ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status: PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor**

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. For his or her first year of full-time attendance at an institution of higher learning, provides that a person is entitled to a \$1,000 grant if he or she (i) is in the legal custody of his or her grandparent and receives public aid assistance under the Illinois Public Aid Code, (ii) has graduated from high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and (iii) has been recommended for the grant by the principal of his or her high school.



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**HB5429 Mobile Response Workforce Training Program (Reis / Jones)**

**ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status: PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor**

Requires the Illinois Community College Board to implement and administer a 3-year, mobile response workforce training pilot program at 3 community colleges to address the fact that businesses are struggling to recruit a qualified workforce because of the frequent emergence of new technologies in the workplace and subsequent skill set requirements. Sets forth requirements for the program. Sets forth the Board's powers and duties with respect to the program.

**SB49 Pension Code - Corrects unintended consequences (Schoenberg / Gordon)**

**ICCTA Position: SUPPORT**

**Status: PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor**

Amends the State University and Downstate Teacher Articles of the Illinois Pension Code. Corrects most of the unintended consequences of the passage of pension reform legislation embodied in SB 27 last year. Sets forth procedures for calculating, reviewing, and collecting certain employer contributions based on excess salary, usually overtime and overload assignments, and permits exceptions to a 6% salary increase limitation in those cases. Provides that when assessing payment for when an employer must make certain contributions, the State Universities Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois shall exclude for a specified time period various salary increases and payments.

**SB1827 Energy Conservation – Expands definition (Harmon / Mathias)**

**ICCTA Position: SUPPORT**

**Status: PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor**

Amends the Local Government Energy Conservation Act, the School Code, the Public University Energy Conservation Act, and the Public Community College Act. Defines "energy conservation measure" to include energy conservation measures that reduce energy consumption or reduce operating costs, including future labor costs, future costs for contracted services, and related capital expenditures. Defines "related capital expenditures". Provides that a unit of local government, public university, or public community college district may enter into a guaranteed energy savings contract if it finds that the amount it would spend on the energy conservation measures recommended in the proposal would not exceed the amount to be saved in either energy costs or operational costs, or both, within a 20-year period (now, a 10-year period) from the date of installation, if the recommendations in the proposal are followed. Makes corresponding changes.

**SB 2225 University Remediation (Maloney / McCarthy)**

**ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status: PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor**

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Provides that if a public university admits a student who needs remedial coursework, then the university must require that the student complete the remedial coursework.

**SB 2235 Grow Your Own Teachers Act (Martinez / Golar)**

**ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status: PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor**

Amends the Grow Our Own Teacher Education Act. Changes the name of the Act to the Grow Your Own Teacher Act. Defines "developmental classes" and makes changes to the definition of "parent and community leaders" and "schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students". Replaces references to "student" and "participant" with "candidate" throughout the Act. Provides that the State Board shall establish criteria that address the inclusion in the planned program of strategies derived from community organizing that will help candidates develop tools for working with parents and other community members. Provides for partial loan forgiveness for shortened periods of service in hard-to-staff schools or hard-to-staff teaching positions.

**SB 2286                      Speech Pathology Associates Degree (Righter / Rose)**

**ICCTA Position:            SUPPORT**

**Status:                      PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor**

Amends the Illinois Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act. Provides that a person who, in addition to meeting certain other requirements, has received, prior to June 1, 2003, an associate degree from a speech-language pathology assistant program approved by the Illinois Community College Board is qualified to be licensed as a speech-language pathology assistant. Effective immediately.

**SB 2312                      Non-traditional student added to BHE (Maloney / Joyce)**

**ICCTA Position:            SUPPORT**

**Status:                      PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor**

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Adds an additional student member to the Board of Higher Education, which person must be a non-traditional undergraduate student who is at least 24 years old and represents the views of non-traditional students, such as a person who is employed or is a parent

**SB 2778                      Non-traditional student added to BHE (Maloney / Joyce)**

**ICCTA Position:            MONITOR**

**Status:                      PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor**

Amends the Volunteer Emergency Worker Job Protection Act and various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois. Provides that no public university or community college attendance policy or attendance policy of a faculty member thereof may in any way penalize a student who is a volunteer emergency worker for absence from class caused by the performance of his or her duties as a volunteer emergency worker.

**House Joint Resolution 122    Joint Task Force on Community Colleges (McCarthy / Collins)**

**ICCTA Position:            SUPPORT**

**Status:                      PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor**

Creates a Joint Task Force on Community Colleges to review the present community college system and its future. the Joint Task Force on Community Colleges shall consist of the following members: 2 co-chairpersons, each a member of the General Assembly, with one appointed by the Speaker of the House and one appointed by the President of the Senate; 2 spokespersons, each a member of the General Assembly, with one appointed by the Minority Leader of the House and one appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; 3 community college presidents appointed by an organization representing public community college presidents; 3 community college trustees appointed by an organization representing Illinois community college trustees; 2 community college faculty members appointed by the Chairperson of the Illinois Community College Board; 2 community college students appointed by the Illinois Community College Board Student Advisory Committee; and 2 members appointed by the Chairperson of the Illinois Community College Board, one of whom is a nationally recognized community college expert.

**HER 91                      Joint Task Force on Community Colleges (McCarthy / Collins)**

**ICCTA Position:            SUPPORT**

**Status:                      PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor**

Creates the Joint Task Force on the College Insurance Program to review the Program and consider whether the City Colleges of Chicago should be included.

***ICCTA appreciates its many allies in the legislative arena.  
Special thanks are due to the Illinois Presidents Council  
and the Illinois Community College Board.***

**■ For additional legislative updates, call ICCTA at 1-800-454-2282 ■**